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Attorney Docket No. 03722/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): M. YAMAKAWA, et al.

Serial No. : 10/731,703

Filed : December 8, 2003

For : PAPER POST-PROCESSING METHOD, PAPER  
POST-PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE  
RECORDING APPARATUS

Art Unit : 3722

Examiner : HIRSHFELD, ANDREW HOWARD

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)  
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a further European Search Report dated June 11, 2004, issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of the cited publications; and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A. It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Said communication is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

N. Sahadeo  
Nalini P. Sahadeo

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by credit card payment, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

Copies of the first two documents (namely US 2003/0040415 and EP 1,000,894) cited in the enclosed further European Search Report, are not listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08A and copies are not supplied herewith since they were already submitted with the IDS filed April 12, 2004.

Also listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08A are:

1. USP 6,568,668, which is a family member of EP 1,000,894; and
2. USP 6,014,920 and USP 5,839,336 which are family members of EP 0,960,704.

The U.S. patent publications identified on said form PTO/SB/08A are not enclosed herewith since the USPTO waived the requirement to file copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications for U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003. See the USPTO Notice dated July 11, 2003.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)**

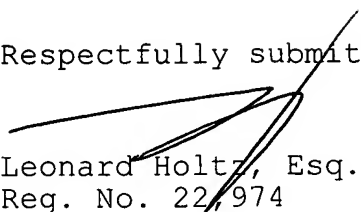
Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of March 24, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the attached publications be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard Holtz, Esq.  
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: June 23, 2004

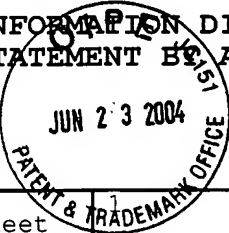
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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  		Application Number	10/731,703
		Filing Date	December 8, 2003
		First Named Inventor	M. YAMAKAWA et al.
		Group Art Unit	3722
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number	03722/LH

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits <sup>*</sup>	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
	A	5,839,336	A	YAMAUCHI et al.	11-24-1998	
	B	6,014,920	A	YAMAUCHI et al.	01-18-2000	
	C	6,361,036	B1	NAKAZAWA	03-26-2002	
	D	2002/0079640	A1	YOSHIE et al	06-27-2002	
	E	6,568,668	B1	WAKABAYASHI et al	05-27-2003	

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits <sup>*</sup>	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Offc <sup>3</sup>	Document Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T <sup>6</sup>
	F	EP	0 960 704	A1	SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA	12-01-1999		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: June 23, 2004